

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 05, 2016 1:10 AM
To: HarborComments
Subject: Re: Clean Up Portland Harbor
Attachments: 348868583302969518.pdf



Clean Up Portland Harbor

Letter

Dr. Ms. McCarthy, The proposed cleanup of the Portland Harbor is a big win for industry and a bad deal for the public. EPA's cleanup proposal tackles just 8% of a site area that is 100% toxic. A more aggressive plan is needed to prevent even more harm to human health and the environment. On behalf of all people who rely on the river for food, recreation, employment and culture, I urge the EPA to implement a plan that: Moves quickly and sustainably reduces contaminants causing harm to Willamette and Columbia River resources. Includes ongoing monitoring and cleanup upriver and downriver from the site. Contributes to healthy fish that are safe to eat for all people. Holds polluters accountable for creating a safer Portland Harbor. These elements get us closer to the plan our communities deserve. And I deserve a clean, safe Portland Harbor. *Submitted during the comment period between June 9, 2016 to August 8, 2016 regarding the EPA's Portland Harbor Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan.

First Name (b)

Last Name (b) (6)

E-mail (b) (6)

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Dear EPA

I'm (b) (6). I was born and raised in Washington County. I have always considered Portland a model city for the country concerning issues like sustainability. I'm concerned that the plan to carry out Alternative I in order to clean up the Willamette River does not go far enough to protect the public's health and the environment.

I think the EPA should carry out a plan similar to Alternative G, but with additional dredging. The current plan relies too much on Monitored Natural Recovery, an approach that has not been shown to alleviate persistent organic pollutants.

The plan does not go far enough to protect public health concerning the consumption of fish. It is in the public's interest that the river is cleaned up to an extent where advisory warnings can be lifted, and that everyone, including infants and women of child bearing age, can eat local fish. I'm afraid that the CERCLA-based fish advisory program will not sufficiently protect the public, and I advise that the health of the fish that is to be consumed be verified according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Second, the current plan to dispose the toxic waste doesn't effectively protect the public or environment. Storing the toxic waste near the river is a recipe for disaster to the public and the environment. The public is opposed the idea of toxic waste dumps. Instead, place the pollution in a proper facility like the Roosevelt facility or the Wasco facility.

Additionally, any plan to clean up the Willamette river needs to include steps to prevent pollution from continuing to enter the Willamette and not just focus on addressing the pollution that is already in the river. To do this, illegal dumping needs to be stopped, and sources of contamination such as leaking transformers need to be addressed.

Furthermore, the companies responsible for contaminated the river must be held responsible for paying for the cleanup. It would be unjust and unfair if the burden of paying for the cleanup were left to taxpayers and not the companies that caused the contamination.

Albert Einstein once said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." New technologies and innovative ways to clean bodies of water is more viable than ever before, but are not addressed in the Proposed Plan. One example of a solution is called the Seabin Project.

If we do not properly clean the Willamette River, the local myth that the Willamette means a "valley of sickness and death" will be our legacy. However, we have the power to change this, and make the Willamette a symbol of prosperity and a model for the country. Some may think we can't afford to clean up the river. I say we cannot afford to compromise the health of our community and our environment.

Thank you
(b) (6)